

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

WALL-MOUNTED TYPE MICROWAVE OVEN

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims the benefit of Korean Application No. 2003-1429, filed January 9, 2003, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a wall-mounted type microwave oven, and more particularly, to a wall-mounted type microwave oven, which is adapted to prevent a deformation and a drooping of an outer cabinet thereof.

2. Description of the Related Art

[0003] In general, a microwave oven is a cooking appliance which is intended to cook foods by intermolecular frictional heating of the foods, which is generated by repeatedly agitating water molecules of the foods with high-frequency electromagnetic energy. Among such microwave ovens, a microwave oven, which is fixedly installed over a cooking device, such as a gas oven range, to serve as a hood to exhaust contaminated air to an outside, is usually referred as a wall-mounted type microwave oven.

[0004] A conventional wall-mounted type microwave oven is generally installed over the gas oven range in a kitchen, and performs an operation of exhausting, for example, exhaust gas and fumes generated from the gas oven range disposed therebelow, to the outside, as well as a cooking operation as in a conventional wall-mounted type microwave oven.

[0005] The wall-mounted type microwave oven includes an outer cabinet defining an outer appearance of the wall-mounted type microwave oven, and an inner cabinet disposed in the

outer cabinet with a predetermined spacing therebetween, so as to enable the predetermined spacing to serve as a duct to guide contaminated air. The inner cabinet is provided therein with a cooking chamber to cook foods therein, and an electric component compartment to receive various electric components, the cooking chamber and electric component compartment being isolated from each other.

[0006] The wall-mounted type microwave oven includes an upper panel having an upper surface of the outer cabinet, which is securely attached to a lower surface of an installation base, such as a ceiling of the kitchen or a kitchen cabinet, by fasteners such as bolts and nuts and is thereby suspended. In an operation of installing the wall-mounted type microwave oven to the installation base, the nuts are first held by additional nut holders attached to a lower surface of the upper panel, and the bolts are passed through the installation base and the outer cabinet and engaged with the nuts.

[0007] However, since the outer cabinet of the conventional wall-mounted type microwave oven is comprised of thin plate material, the upper panel of the outer cabinet may be deformed or may droop by a weight of the wall-mounted type microwave oven over time.

[0008] Furthermore, since the additional nut holders are needed to hold nuts on the upper panel, production cost is increased.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0009] Accordingly, it is an aspect of the present invention to provide a wall-mounted type microwave oven, which prevents a deformation and a drooping of an outer cabinet thereof.

[0010] It is another aspect to provide a wall-mounted type microwave oven, which reduces a number of associated components, thereby decreasing production cost.

[0011] Additional aspects and/or advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows and, in part, will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention.

[0012] The above and/or other aspects are achieved by providing a wall-mounted type microwave oven including an outer cabinet defining an outer appearance of the wall-mounted type microwave oven, an inner cabinet disposed in the outer cabinet with a predetermined spacing therebetween, and having a cooking chamber to cook foods therein and an electric component compartment to receive electric components. The cooking chamber and the electric component compartments are isolated from each other. A hanger member extends from the inner cabinet to allow the inner cabinet to be secured to an installation base in a kitchen, and a fastening device secures the hanger member to the installation base.

[0013] The fastening device includes a bolt and a nut. The bolt passes through the installation base, the outer cabinet and the hanger member. The nut is disposed under the hanger member and engages with the bolt.

[0014] The hanger member includes a seat piece on which the nut is seated, and a resilient hook piece to allow the nut to be seated on the seat piece and to prevent the nut from separating from the seat piece.

[0015] The seat piece is downwardly extended from a lower surface of the hanger member and laterally bent to have an "L"-shaped section, so as to allow the nut to be seated on the bent portion, and the resilient hook piece is positioned at an opening side of the seat piece to prevent the nut from separating from the seat piece.

[0016] The nut has a square shape, which is in contact with the seat piece and the resilient hook piece at sides thereof, so as not to allow the nut to rotate when the bolt engages therewith.

[0017] The hanger member extends from a partition plate, which is attached to an upper and front portion of the inner cabinet defining the electric component compartment, to define a flow path to cool the electric component compartment.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018] These and/or other aspects and advantages of the invention will become apparent and more readily appreciated from the following description of the preferred embodiments, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings of which:

[0019] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a wall-mounted type microwave oven, according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0020] FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the wall-mounted type microwave oven shown in FIG. 1, which is installed to a wall in a kitchen;

[0021] FIG. 3 is an exploded perspective view of portion III of FIG. 2; and

[0022] FIG. 4 is a plan cross-sectional view of a seat piece, a hook piece and a nut, according to the embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0023] Reference will now be made in detail to the present preferred embodiment of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals refer to like elements throughout. The embodiment is described below in order to explain the present invention by referring to the figures.

[0024] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a wall-mounted type microwave oven according to an embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. 2 is a side cross-sectional view of the microwave oven shown in FIG. 1, which is installed to a wall in a kitchen.

[0025] As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the wall-mounted type microwave oven according to the embodiment of the present invention is installed to a lower surface of an installation base "I" provided at a ceiling or a kitchen cabinet, which is positioned over a gas oven range (not shown). The wall-mounted type microwave oven is located at an upper surface thereof with an outer duct D, which is connected to the wall-mounted type microwave oven through the ceiling

or the kitchen cabinet, so as to guide exhaust gas and food odors generated from the gas oven range positioned therebelow, to the outside.

[0026] The wall-mounted type microwave oven includes an outer cabinet 10 defining an outer appearance of the wall-mounted type microwave oven, and an inner cabinet 20 disposed in the outer cabinet 10 with a predetermined spacing therebetween, so as to enable the predetermined spacing to serve as an inner duct 30 to guide contaminated air therethrough.

[0027] The inner cabinet 20 includes a cooking chamber 21 to cook foods therein, and an electric component compartment 22 to receive various electric components, the cooking chamber 21 and the electric component compartment 22 being isolated from each other. The cooking chamber 21 is opened and closed by a door 23 hingedly coupled to a front surface of the cooking chamber 21. The electric component compartment 22 includes at a front surface thereof a control panel 24 to control various operations of the wall-mounted type microwave oven, which is positioned adjacent to the door 23.

[0028] The electric component compartment 22 includes electric components such as a magnetron 22a to generate high-frequency electromagnetic waves into the cooking chamber 21, a high voltage transformer 22b to apply high voltage to the magnetron 22a, and a cooling fan 22c to cool the electric components received in the electric component compartment 22.

[0029] A lower panel, which defines a lower surface of the outer cabinet 10, includes at sides thereof intake ports 11, so as to introduce the contaminated air containing exhaust gas and the food odors generated from the gas oven range positioned therebelow, into the outer cabinet 10. An upper panel, which defines an upper surface of the outer cabinet 10, includes an exhaust port 12, so as to exhaust the contaminated air introduced into the outer cabinet 10, to the outside.

[0030] The inner duct 30 defined between the outer cabinet 10 and the inner cabinet 20 extends from under the inner cabinet 20 to the exhaust port 12 through a rear surface of the inner cabinet 20, so as to guide the contaminated air introduced through the intake port 11 to the exhaust port 12. The outer cabinet 10 is provided at a rear and upper portion thereof with a

fan motor 13 to generate a turning force, and a pair of exhaust fans 14 joined to driving shafts of the fan motor 13 to generate a suction force.

[0031] Thus the contaminated air, generated from the gas oven range, is introduced into the outer cabinet 10 through the intake port 11 by the suction force caused by the fan motor 13 and the exhaust fans 14, and is guided to the outer duct D through the inner duct 30 and the exhaust port 12, thereby allowing the contaminated air to be exhausted to the outside.

[0032] As shown in FIG. 3, to install the wall-mounted type microwave oven to the installation base I provided at a ceiling or a cabinet, for example, in a kitchen, the inner cabinet 20 is provided at an upper surface thereof with a hanger member 40, which laterally extends parallel to the installation base I. Furthermore, the wall-mounted type microwave oven includes a fastening device 50 to secure the hanger member 40 to the installation base I.

[0033] The hanger member 40 secures the inner cabinet 20 to the installation base I together with the outer cabinet 10. The hanger member 40 extends rearwardly from an upper end of a partition plate 25, which is located at an upper portion of the electric component compartment 22 to guide air introduced into the outer cabinet 10 toward the electric component compartment 22.

[0034] The fastening device 50 comprises a bolt 51 which sequentially passes through the installation base I, the outer cabinet 10 and the hanger member 40, and a nut 52 which is disposed on a lower surface of the hanger member 40 and engages with the bolt 51 to secure the hanger member 40 and the outer cabinet 10 to the installation base I. To allow the bolt 51 to pass through the outer cabinet 10, the outer cabinet 10 is formed with a first through hole 15, and the hanger member 40 is formed with a second through hole 43.

[0035] The hanger member 40 includes a seat piece 41 extending downwardly from the hanger member to allow the nut 52 to be placed thereon, and a resilient hook piece 42 to allow the nut 52 to be precisely seated on the seat piece 41 and to prevent the nut seated on the seat piece 41 from being separated therefrom.

[0036] The seat piece 41 extends downwardly from the hanger member 40 and is laterally bent to have an "L"-shaped form, so that an end of the seat piece 41 is spaced from the resilient hook piece 42. The seat piece 41 is formed at about its midpoint with a cut portion 41a, so as to allow the bolt 51 to pass through the seat piece 41. The resilient hook piece 42 is positioned at an opening side of the seat piece 41 to allow the nut 52 to be stably disposed therebetween.

[0037] The nut 52 may comprise a square nut to prevent the nut 52 from rotating with respect to the seat piece 41 and the resilient hook piece 42.

[0038] Accordingly, when the nut 52, which is square, is inserted between the seat piece 41 and the resilient hook piece 42 by an external force, the resilient hook piece 42 is resiliently deformed and then restored to a normal state thereof, thereby holding the nut 52 in place. After the nut 52 is completely inserted between the seat piece 41 and the resilient hook piece 42, the nut 52 cannot be separated from the seat piece 41. In this state, the nut 52 engages with the bolt 51 passed through the installation base I, the outer cabinet 10, and the hanger member 40. Thus, the outer cabinet 10 and the inner cabinet 20 is firmly securable to the installation base I in a suspended state.

[0039] Although the hanger member 40 is integrally formed with and extends upwardly from the inner cabinet 20, the hanger member 40 may extend from various parts provided on the upper surface of the inner cabinet 20.

[0040] An operation of installing the wall-mounted type microwave oven according to the embodiment of the present invention will now be described in detail.

[0041] First, when the nut 52 is inserted between the seat piece 41 and the resilient hook piece 42 by the external force, the resilient hook piece 42 is resiliently deformed. After the nut 52 is stably seated on the seat piece 41, the resilient hook piece 42 is resiliently restored to the normal position thereof, thereby preventing the nut 52 from being separated from the seat piece 41.

[0042] Subsequently, the wall-mounted type microwave oven is positioned under the installation base I. The bolt 51 is passed through the first through holes 15 of the installation base I and the outer cabinet 10 and the second through hole 43 of the hanger member 40, and then is rotated to engage with the nut 52 disposed on the seat piece 41. Since the nut 52 is formed into a square shape to cause opposite sides thereof to be in contact with the seat piece 41 and the resilient hook piece 42, a rotation of the nut 52 is prevented. As the bolt 51 rotates, the bolt 51 is tightly fastened to the nut 52. Therefore, the inner cabinet 20 as well as the outer cabinet 10 is firmly secured to the installation base I by the hanger member 40 and the fastening device 50.

[0043] As is apparent from the above description, a wall-mounted type microwave oven having a hanger member enables an inner cabinet as well as an outer cabinet of the wall-mounted type microwave oven to be secured to an installation area in a kitchen. Therefore, since a weight of the wall-mounted type microwave oven is evenly distributed to the inner and outer cabinets, a deformation of the outer cabinet is prevented.

[0044] In addition, since the wall-mounted type microwave oven enables a nut to be held on a hanger member extending from a partition plate defining a flow path to cool an electric component compartment without additional parts, a production cost of the wall-mounted type microwave oven is reduced.

[0045] Although a preferred embodiment of the present invention has been shown and described, it would be appreciated by those skilled in the art that changes may be made in the embodiment without departing from the principles and spirit of the invention, the scope of which is defined in the claims and their equivalents.